
Better Public Access to Point Source Wastewater Pollutant Discharge Information



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Office of Water and
Office of Enforcement
and Compliance
Assurance

Outline

- Quick overview of how EPA and states collect and manage wastewater sampling data from sewage treatment plants and industrial facilities.
- Overview and demonstration of a new EPA web tool for better access to these data.
- Questions and answers.



Before we start...

- Due to the large audience we will be muting all phone lines for this one-hour teleconference.
- Please type your question into the text box provide by the webinar software.
 - We will try to answer as many questions as possible in this hour.
 - We will answer all the questions we receive during the webinar and send our answers to all participants via e-mail within the next few weeks.
- We are recording this webinar and will post it to our website for future use. Addition webinars can be provided upon request. Send requests to Carey Johnston, johnston.carey@epa.gov.



Wastewater Pollution Data



Under the Federal Clean Water Act, industrial facilities and sewage treatment plants are required to get a permit in order to discharge.

These permits require facilities to sample their wastewater, analyze the pollutants they are discharging, and report these results to states or EPA.



Wastewater Pollution Data



These wastewater pollution data are submitted on forms called "Discharge Monitoring Reports" or DMRs.

EPA policy requires states to enter these DMR data for some facilities into EPA's national data system.

EPA and states use DMR data to:

- Calculate permit effluent limits,
- Identify and target effluent limit violations, and
- Improve watershed modeling.



Wastewater Pollution Data



An important consideration in assessing the potential impact of pollutant discharges on human health and the environment is identifying the amount discharged (pounds per day), which can be reported or calculated from the DMR.



Wastewater Pollution Data



EPA also collects wastewater pollutant discharge data (annual amounts) from industrial facilities as part of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) program.

The current TRI toxic chemical list contains 593 individually listed chemicals and 30 chemical categories.



New EPA Web Tool for Access to DMR Data



<http://www.epa.gov/pollutantdischarges>

EPA has just released a new web tool, DMR Pollutant Loading Tool, for easier access to DMR and TRI data (2007 through 2010).

EPA constructed this tool to answer questions in an easy to use interface:

- Who is the discharger of interest
- What is the pollutant of interest:
- Where is the discharge of interest:
- How much point source pollution is discharged?



Wastewater Pollution Data



EPA designed the new tool for two main audiences:

- members of the general public (citizens, researchers) who would like quick and easy access to wastewater pollution data; and
- technical users (permit writers, watershed modelers, regulatory agencies).



Wastewater Pollution Data



The online access to wastewater pollutant discharge data allows:

- better transparency of wastewater pollutant discharges;
- enhanced utility of this data; and
- improved data quality.

The information is being rolled out as part of the Agency's Clean Water Act Enforcement Action Plan, which seeks to improve transparency of information and public knowledge about pollutant releases that may cause water impairments.

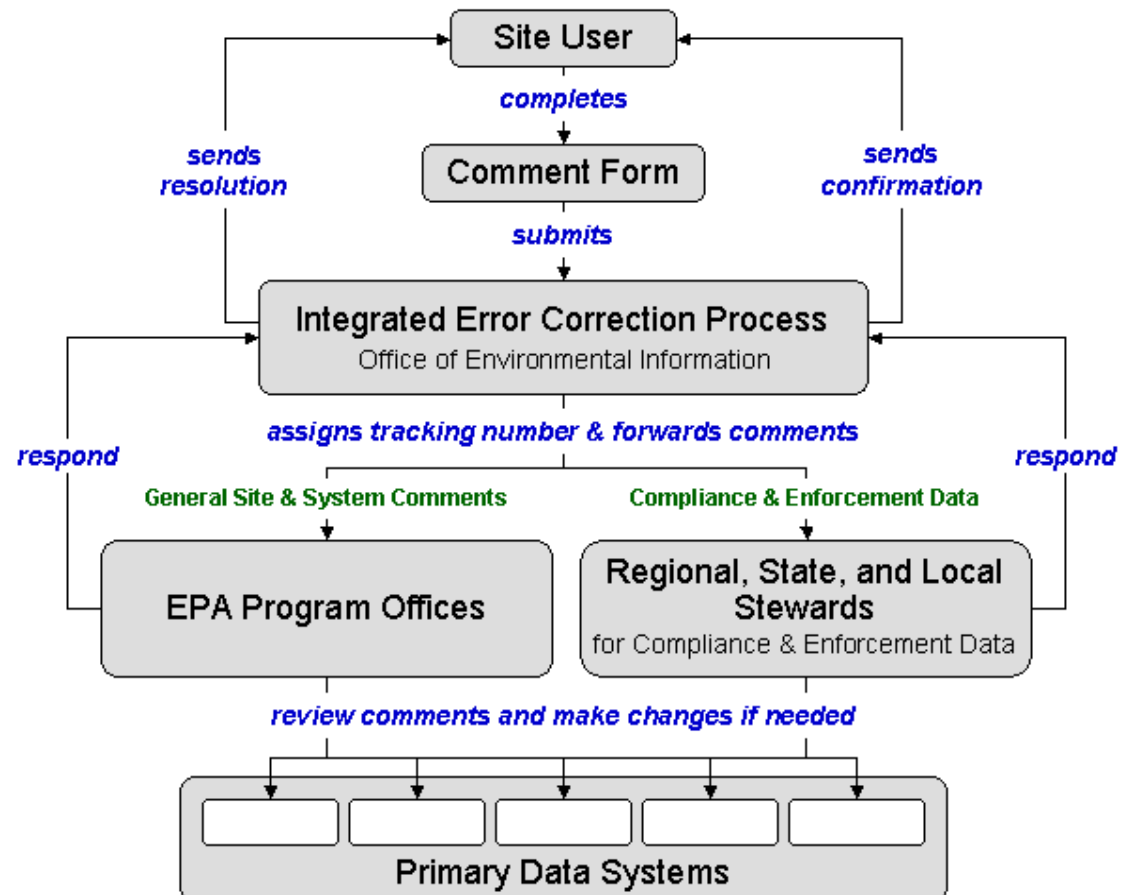


<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/cwa/cwaenfplan.html>

Loading Tool – Error Correction Process

- Users can identify and report potential data errors into EPA's Integrated Error Correction Process.
- This process uses a list of EPA Regional and state enforcement and compliance data stewards as the responsible officials for examining and correcting errors in EPA's data systems.

EPA Data Error Correction Process



Overview and Demonstration of the Loading Tool

Enough talk...let's see a demonstration of the tool!

